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Winchester Kindergarten classrooms receive STEM boost through WFEE grant

April 8, 2025 . 12:35 PM — 2 min read

Winchester Kindergarten students Jett Brennan, left, and Nicky Tartow work with the Makedo kit in Lisa Morrison's Kindergarten class at the Ambrose School. COURTESY PHOTO/WINCHESTER FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The following was submitted by the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence:

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Winchester's youngest learners are diving into hands-on STEM exploration thanks to a generous grant from the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence (WFEE).

Laylah, left, and Emily show off their creations from their Makedo kits in Michele Mafera's kindergarten class at the Lynch School. COURTESY PHOTO/WINCHESTER FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

This funding has provided all kindergarten classrooms in Winchester with Makedo kits—innovative tools designed for cardboard construction and creative problem-solving.

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Makedo kits are STEM-aligned resources that empower students to safely cut, fold, and connect upcycled cardboard. These kits promote sustainability while fostering critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity across all content areas. With intuitive tools and endless possibilities, students can build small or large creations while engaging in project-based learning that inspires innovation and teamwork.

A kindergarten student shows off a creation from her Makedo kit in Michele Mafera's kindergarte
Lynch School. COURTESY PHOTO/WINCHESTER FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

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The grant highlights WFEE's commitment to supporting educational excellence and innovation in Winchester Public Schools. Teachers have expressed gratitude for the opportunity to integrate these versatile kits into their classrooms, enhancing STEM connections and encouraging imaginative learning experiences.

Photos accompanying this article showcase kindergarteners enthusiastically using Makedo kits, demonstrating their creativity and collaboration in action. Winchester Public Schools extend heartfelt thanks to WFEE for its continued dedication to enriching student learning through impactful grants.

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The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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